



### Special Programs:

Fridays are a highlight of the week at VBS. Children begin the day by baking their own challah to take home. Kabbalat Shabbat services include a visit from the rabbis. Children are introduced to Shabbat prayers and blessings. Shabbat rituals are celebrated in each classroom with the Shabbat family.

There are many opportunities for parents to get involved. Our Parent Association holds monthly meetings to enhance and support our curriculum. The Parent Association sponsors family Shabbat dinners, Fall Ball, Snow Day and Teacher Appreciation events.

Weekly gymnastics and body movement classes are offered for all ages, allowing children to develop large motor skills, learn listening skills and follow directions.

The children enjoy weekly music where they learn Judaic and secular music in an interactive way.

Enrichment classes are offered daily after school. Science, drama, karate, Israeli dancing, music and yoga are among the classes we offer.

### Our VBS Community:

Valley Beth Shalom is a trendsetting Conservative synagogue known for its pioneering programming, educational resources, and its religious leaders. VBS is an inclusive community that offers opportunities for families to learn, worship, celebrate and volunteer. The VBSECC works in partnership with the synagogue to foster these ideals.

### Contact Us:

We look forward to hearing from you....

**Directors:** Audrey Freedman Habush  
Michele Warner

**E-mail:** [ahabush@vbs.org](mailto:ahabush@vbs.org)  
[mwarner@vbs.org](mailto:mwarner@vbs.org)

**Assistant Directors:** Rita Orenstein  
Hillary Steinberg

818-788-4667 Infant-Toddler  
818-788-0567 Preschool



**Valley Beth Shalom**  
15739 Ventura Boulevard  
Encino, CA 91436  
[www.vbsecc.org](http://www.vbsecc.org)



# Valley Beth Shalom





## Mission Statement:

The Valley Beth Shalom Early Childhood Center is a special place for young children from birth through 5 years of age and their families. Through the lens of Jewish culture and tradition our children learn about themselves, values, our community and the world.

We embrace the uniqueness of each child and offer innovative programs that nurture and prepare our children for a lifelong journey of discovery and joy.

## Philosophy:

Understanding of self is the primary developmental task of very young children.

The child asks:

Who am I?

Where do I fit in the world?

Am I good?

The Valley Beth Shalom Early Childhood Center works in partnership with the family to help children answer these fundamental questions. Our goal is to provide a strong foundation for future growth, learning and happiness.

## Staff:

Our highly professional and supportive teachers have both experience and training in early childhood education. Our teachers aim to facilitate, stimulate and encourage children's development through questioning, listening and taking part in activities with the children. Working as a team, our teachers strive to meet the individual needs of each child and stay in continuous communication with one another and with parents to promote and support each child's development. Our entire staff participates in continuing education through seminars and conferences.

## Goals:

Valley Beth Shalom Early Childhood Center is dedicated to encouraging children:

- Develop self esteem; know that they are loved and that they have a special place in the world
- Respect all people and value their differences
- Have a strong identification with Judaism and the Jewish people
- Develop cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills

We also seek to create families who:

- Are partners with the school in the education of their children
- Participate actively in Jewish life
- Participate in our school community

## Infant Toddler:

### Infants (newborn – 12 months)

*meets once per week*

Our classes help parents learn about their babies early development through informative discussions, music and stimulation in a warm and loving Jewish environment. New friendships are formed as parents explore their questions and emotions about parenthood.



### Toddlers (12 months - 24 months)

*meets once per week*

As your child continues to grow so does our program. Children enjoy sensory experiences, such as art, music, story time, Jewish holiday celebrations and indoor/outdoor play. Our parent discussions cover developmental and socially relevant topics in a supportive environment.

### Transition (24 months - 30 months)

*meets 2 or 3 times per week*

A special program for our "oldest" toddlers as they begin the transition to preschool. This class offers children the opportunity to gain independence and develop their sense of identity in a warm and nurturing environment

### Working Parent's Class (12 months - 30 months)

*meets 1 evening per week*

A class that helps address the needs of working parents as they are challenged by the demands at work and home.

### Grandparent & Me (15 months - 30 months)

*meets once per week*

A time for grandparents and toddlers to nurture the bond that exists between them.

### Daddy & Me (15 months - 30 months)

*meets 1 Sunday per month*

Dads have the opportunity to meet and connect with other dads while enjoying quality time with their children.



## Preschool:

At Valley Beth Shalom Preschool a child's early years are filled with growth, exploration and wonderful discoveries. Our Preschool provides a rich learning environment that stimulates their curiosity and the joy of being Jewish. Every child receives personal attention that recognizes their individuality.



The Preschool program is for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years. Classes meet 5 days a week. Early morning drop off and after school child care is available.

### First Year Preschool

2 ½ - 3 ½ year olds (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)

The focus of the child's first year is socialization, autonomy and developing language skills. Learning about friends and being part of a group are key elements of their day.

### Second Year Preschool

3 ½ - 4 ½ year olds (9:00 am to 1:00 pm)

Children explore a more complex classroom in which centers are presented. Early math and writing experiences are introduced. Conflict resolution skills are practiced so children learn problem solving techniques. Children graduate to Gesher or Kindergarten after this year.

### Gesher

4 ½ - 5 year olds, (9:00 am- 3:00 pm)

Through a developmental approach children continue to grow in their school readiness. Prereading and math skills are practiced through hands on experiences on a daily basis. Independence is encouraged as each child becomes responsible for him/herself. Children enjoy hot lunch twice a week and participate in a drama class once a week.

All our classes participate in weekly Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, tzedakah, and enrichment classes.